Glossary

Abstraction

A technique used in art in which the shapes found in nature are represented by lines and forms that are not realistic. Frank Lloyd Wright used geometric shapes to recreate abstract butterflies and Sumac plants for the windows of the Dana-Thomas House. 1

Arch

A structural method used to span an opening. An arch is usually rounded and made of stone or brick. 2

Art Glass

Windows made of small pieces of glass held together by lead or copper strips. These pieces of glass can be clear, frosted or colored and are designed in a pattern. 3

Balance

The state of being equal or appearing to be equal or stable. Balance in architecture may be achieved in several ways, but the use of symmetry and repetition are two main ways to achieve balance. Buildings can be designed to be symmetrical or asymmetrical. 4

Barrel Vault

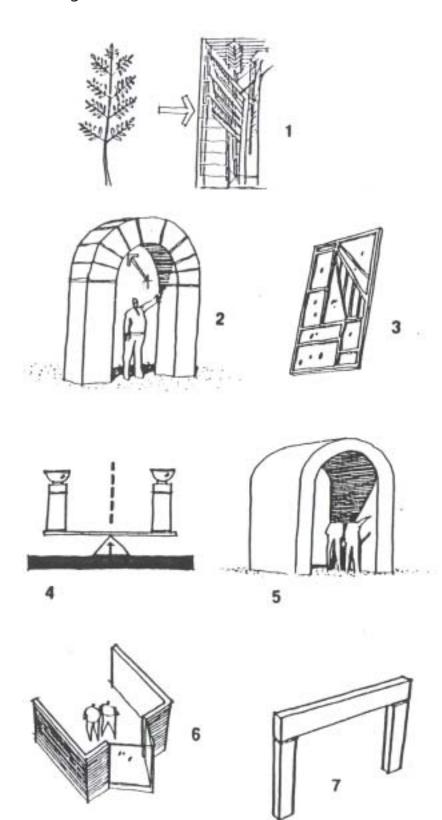
An arched ceiling with wooden dividers making it appear to resemble the interior of a barrel. 5

Bay

An angular or curved part of a room that projects out beyond the regular walls of a house. A bay window is a projection from a house that is filled by glass. 6

Beam

A piece of timber lying in a horizontal position and supported at each end. 7



Course

In a masonry wall, a single line of bricks or stones.

Double Hung Window

A window in which panes of glass slide over each other vertically. **14**

Eave

The edge and underpart of a roof that projects over an outside wall. **15**

Elevation

The external faces of a building; also a drawing made in projection on a vertical plane to show any one face of a building. **16**

Facade

The face or front of a building.

Fenestration

The arrangements of windows on a building. In the Dana-Thomas House, the windows are often arranged in rows. They are called banded or ribbon windows. **17**

Flashing

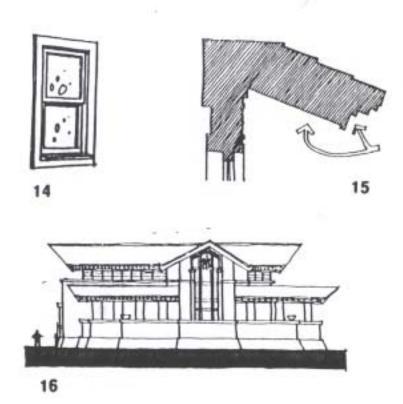
Copper or other metal used to make joints on a building weather tight. Flashing is found on joints between a chimney and roof and on other intersecting joints on a building surface where water might penetrate. **18**

Frieze

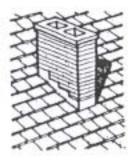
An ornamental band in a building usually found on the upper part of a wall. An ornate, plaster frieze decorates the upper exterior walls of the Dana-Thomas House. 19

Gable

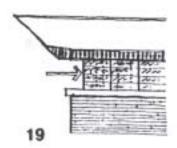
The vertical end of a building from the eaves to the ridge. The gables of the Dana-Thomas House take their inspiration from Japanese architecture. **20**







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Grout

Mortar used in brick and stone work consisting of quick lime and fine sand. Frank Lloyd Wright liked to finish off his brick work by having the workmen rake the mortar away from the surface of each brick course. This gave the bricks the appearance of floating horizontally in space. 21

Landing

The section of flooring at the head of a flight of stairs. 22

Leaded Glass

Art glass windows created when craftsmen use zinc or lead strips to make an outline of a design and then add colored or clear pieces of glass to fill in the shapes created by these lines. Windows made with colored glass divided by lead strips that create a picture or design are called stained glass windows. 23

Lintel

The horizontal beam that forms the upper member of a window or door frame and supports part of the structure above it. 24

Mantle

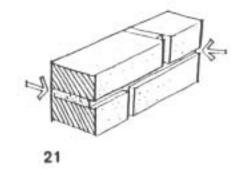
A horizontal piece placed on the top of a fireplace opening. Frank Lloyd Wright did not design mantles for his fireplaces in the Dana-Thomas House, however, there is a mantle on the original fireplace in the parlor. 25

Masonry

Construction using brick, stone or tile set in mortar. 26

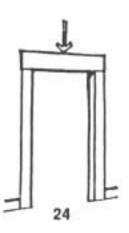
Mass

Mass is the three-dimensional volume which occupies real space. Volume and weight are properties of mass and buildings have these properties. 27







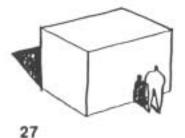


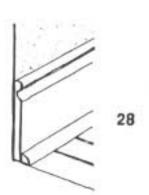


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Moulding

A decorative strip of wood or other material that projects from the wall. 28

Ornament

Any detail that is carved, painted or added to a building for decoration. **29**

Pitch

The incline or rise of a roof.

Plan

A drawing of a building that shows the arrangement of rooms. **30**

Prairie School

A descriptive term characterizing architecture designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and other architects of the period who sought to redefine architecture in a style more in keeping with the landscape. Prairie School houses are designed of long extended horizontal shapes, open interior spaces often divided by leaded glass, furniture built in or designed to fit the architecture, natural wood to define spaces and bands of leaded windows that brought in natural light.

Preservation

Stabilizing a structure in its existing form by preventing further change or deterioration.

Proportion

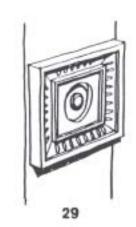
The relationship of parts to a whole or parts to one another in a composition. Architects must be concerned with the relationships of size, space, volume, materials, site and use of a new building. **31**

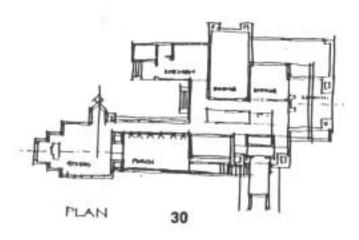
Raking

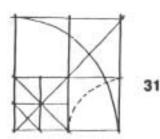
Scraping away mortar from the surface of brick joints to emphasize the horizontal lines of the brick course.

Reconstruction

Recreation of a building from historical, archaeological and architectural documents and other evidence.







Renovation

Making selective use of any changes in structure and detail, leaving those features which may make the building more adaptable to modern use.

Restoration

Returning a building to the way it appeared at a specific date; replacing all changes made after that date with copies of what has been destroyed, and removing all work of a later period. The Dana-Thomas House is restored to the period 1910.

Rhythm

When an art element is repeated it creates rhythm. Architects use many types of rhythmical patterns in buildings to create certain effects or to add a dynamic quality to a large space. 32

Ridge

The horizontal line formed by the junction of two sloping surfaces of a roof. 33

Scumbling

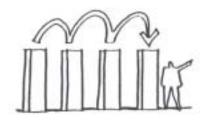
A method of finishing a wall surface in which the paint is manipulated or swirled to create texture and color variations. In the Dana-Thomas House, the walls were first stripped of all color, then stained. Next a varnish like final layer was brushed on and wiped to create a delicate, mottled appearance with a slight sheen.

Sill

The exterior horizontal member on which a window frame rests. 34

Symmetry

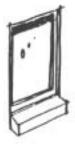
A design system where elements are exactly the same on each side of the center. An arrangement of features where both halves of an object or building are equal. Asymmetry is the lack of symmetry. 35

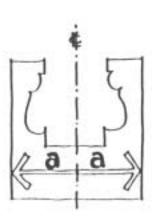


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Sumac

A variety of tree, shrub or plant that belongs to the Anacardiacae family. These plants often grow wild in the Midwest and decorate the landscape when their leaves turn bright red and gold in the fall. Wright based much of the decoration for his art glass windows in the Dana-Thomas House on an abstraction of the Sumac pattern.

Terra Cotta

Fired but unglazed clay which can be fired in moulds to create wall covering and ornamentation for a building.

Texture

The quality of a material's surface. Textures can be rough, smooth, bumpy, scratchy, soft, etc. Texture is a tactile property and requires touching to be fully appreciated, however, we can interpret texture with our eyes and tell how it might feel by looking at it. **36**

Unity

When all parts of a whole of a design are satisfactorily combined to seem harmonious or coherent. When a building is perceived as unified, it is generally thought to be an aesthetic object or beautiful.

Urn

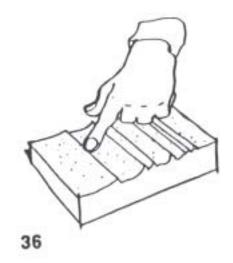
A vase on a pedestal. Frank Lloyd Wright used large concrete urns on the exterior of his buildings as planters. **37**

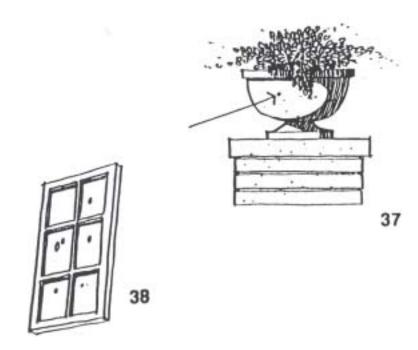
Window Sash

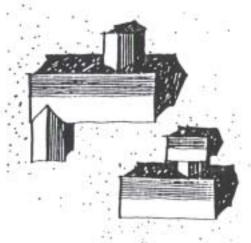
A frame in which the panes of a window are set. **38**

Wing

An extension of a building with its length parallel to the length of the building. 39

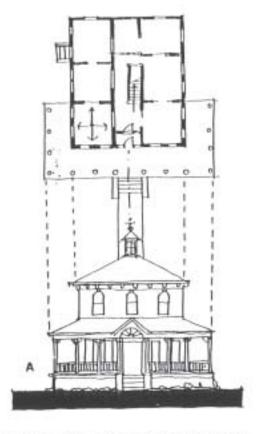






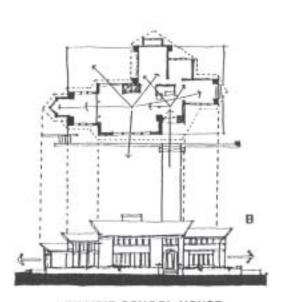
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Understanding Prairie School Use of Space



Typical houses of the period had rooms shaped like boxes. Frank Lloyd Wright designed the Dana-Thomas House to have open, flowing spaces. Look carefully at the plan of a typical Revival Style (Victorian) house. A Notice the shape and relationships of the rooms. Then look at the Prairie School house. B Frank Lloyd Wright arranged rooms to flow into one another to create more open spaces. He also varied the levels of the rooms and heights of ceilings to create a more interesting living environment. C

REVIVAL STYLE HOUSE OF THE PERIOD



PRAIRIE SCHOOL HOUSE

